IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Cancelled).

2.   (Currently Amended)   A mail piece tracking system including:

       A.   one or more servers that perform the operations of:

              i.   receiving delivery status information from one or more mail piece delivery companies and linking the mail piece delivery status information with respective user identifiers~~,~~;

              ii.   receiving one or more messages from the senders of the respective mail pieces and linking to the delivery status information an attachment consisting of the one or more messages from the senders of the mail pieces~~,~~;

              iii.   producing <u>on a user's personal web page</u> listings of the delivery status information for the mail pieces directed to respective users that are associated with the user identifiers~~,~~; and

              iv.   including links to the respective messages in the listings of the delivery status information <u>allowing the user to perform at least one of</u>: <u>sending or receiving a message, receiving or paying a bill, and verifying information based upon a digital signature</u> ; and

       B.   one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status information and the links to the respective messages.

3.   (Withdrawn) A mail piece tracking system including:

       A.   one or more servers for linking mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers,   associating with the delivery status information for a given mail piece related transaction information, producing listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users, and including a link to the transaction information in the listing of the delivery status information;

2

8   B.   one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective

9   users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status

10   information.

1   4.   (Currently Amended) A mail piece tracking system including:

2   A.   one or more servers ~~the~~ that perform the operations of:

3   i.   receiving delivery status information from one or more mail piece

4   delivery companies and linking the mail piece delivery status

5   information with respective user identifiers~~,~~:

6   ii.   receiving information relating to the contents of the respective mail

7   pieces from the senders of the mail pieces <u>and displaying said</u>

8   <u>information on a user's personal web page</u> and linking to the

9   delivery status information an attachment consisting of the

10   information relating to the contents of the respective mail pieces~~,~~:

11   iii.   producing <u>on said user's personal web page</u> respective listings of

12   the delivery status information for mail pieces directed to respective

13   users that are associated with the user identifiers~~,~~: and

14   iv.   associating the information relating to the contents of the respective

15   mail pieces with the mail piece delivery status information in the

16   listings; and

17   B.   one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective

18   users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status

19   information and the information relating to the contents of the respective

20   mail pieces.

1   5. – 6. (Cancelled).

1   7.   (Withdrawn) A mail piece tracking system including:

2   A.   one or more servers for linking mail piece delivery status information with

3   user identifiers producing listings of the delivery status information for

4   mail pieces directed to the respective users, and including in the mail piece

5   delivery status information:

6   i.   a sender identifier,

7   ii.   a mail type identifier,

8   iii.   a delivery service identifier, and

9   iv.   links to on-line information provided by or associated with the

10   sender.

1   8.   (Cancelled)

1   9.   (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 10 wherein

2   A.   the step of linking mail piece delivery status information to the user

3   identifiers includes updating the information, and

4   B.   the step of providing a listing of mail piece delivery status information

5   includes providing in the list the updated information.

1   10.   (Withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps

2   of:

3   A.   associating respective users with user identifiers;

4   B.   associating with the identified users mail pieces directed to or sent by the

5   respective users;

6   C.   linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective

7   mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the delivery status

8   information including information that identifies the senders of the

9   respective mail pieces that are directed to the identified users; and

10   D.   providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces and the

11   mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier

12   that corresponds to the given user.

11.   (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 10 wherein the step of linking mail piece delivery status information with the user identifiers includes associating therewith messages from the respective senders.

12.   (Cancelled).

13.   (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 11 wherein the step of linking mail piece delivery status information to the user identifiers includes associating therewith messages from the respective delivery services.

14.-19. (Cancelled).

20.   (Withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

        A.   associating respective users with user identifiers;

        B.   associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or sent by the respective users;

        C.   linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the mail piece delivery status information including the source of a given mail piece; and

        D.   providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces associated with the given user and the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier that is associated with the given user and further providing a graphical interface connected to notify the given user of the delivery status of the respective mail pieces, the interface being configured to display information concerning the source of a given mail piece.

21.   (Currently Amended)   A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces <u>embodied in a computer readable medium</u> including the steps of:

        A.   associating respective users with user identifiers;

B.   associating with the respective users mail pieces directed to or sent by the respective users;

C.   receiving mail piece delivery status information <u>displayed on a personal web page</u> from one or more mail piece delivery companies and linking the mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers that are associated with the users to which the mail pieces are associated~~.~~<u>;</u>

D.   receiving information <u>displayed on the personal web page</u> concerning the contents of the respective mail pieces from the senders of the respective mail pieces and linking to the delivery status information an attachment consisting of the information concerning the contents of the respective mail pieces; and

E.   providing <u>on said personal web page</u> a graphical interface connected to notify the respective users of the delivery status of the respective mail pieces, the interface being configured to:

    i.   provide the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifiers that are associated with the respective users, and

    ii.   provide to the respective users the information concerning the contents of the respective mail pieces.

22.   (Currently Amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces <u>embodied in a computer readable medium</u> including the steps of:

A.   associating respective users with respective user identifiers;

B.   associating with the respective users respective mail pieces directed to or sent by the respective users;

C.   receiving mail piece delivery status information from one or more mail piece delivery companies and <u>displaying said information on a user's personal web site and</u> linking the mail piece delivery status information

9   relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers that

10   are associated with the users to which the mail pieces are associated;

11   D.   receiving <u>on said user's personal web page</u> images of at least a portion of

12   the contents of the respective mail pieces from the respective senders and

13   linking to the delivery status information an attachment consisting of the

14   images of at least a portion of the contents of the respective mail pieces;

15   and

16   E.   providing to respective users listings of the respective mail pieces and the

17   mail piece delivery status information that are linked to the user identifiers

18   that correspond to the respective users; and

19   F.   providing <u>on said personal web page</u> a graphical interface connected to:

20   i.   notify the respective users of the delivery status of the associated

21   respective mail pieces<u>; and</u>

22   ii.   provide to the users the images of at least a portion of the contents

23   of the respective mail pieces.

1   23.   (Currently Amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces <u>embodied in</u>

2   <u>a computer readable medium</u> including the steps of:

3   A.   associating respective users with respective user identifiers;

4   B.   associating with the users respective mail pieces directed to or sent by the

5   respective users;

6   C.   receiving mail piece delivery status information from respective mail

7   piece delivery companies and linking the mail piece delivery status

8   information relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user

9   identifiers<u>;</u>

10   D.   receiving images of information associated with respective mail pieces

11   from respective senders and linking to the delivery status information an

12   attachment consisting of the images of information associated with

13   respective mail pieces; ~~and~~

14 E.   providing to respective users listings of the respective mail pieces and the

15   mail piece delivery status information that are linked to the user identifiers

16   that correspond to the respective users~~,~~: and

17 F.   providing a graphical interface connected to:

18   i.   notify the respective users of the delivery status of the associated

19   respective mail pieces~~, and~~;

20   ii. provide to the users the images of information associated with the

21   respective mail pieces; and

22   iii provide links for the user to senders and sellers allowing the user to

23   perform at least one of: sending or receiving a message, receiving or

24   paying a bill, and verifying information based upon a digital

25   signature.

26   .

1 24.   (Previously Presented) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim

2 23 in which one or more messages from the senders or the mail delivery companies are

3 received and the interface is further configured to provide the one or more messages

4 associated with the respective mail pieces.

1 25   (Withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

2 A.   associating respective users with respective user identifiers;

3 B.   associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or

4   sent by the respective users;

5 C.   linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the associated

6   respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the mail piece

7   delivery status information including one or more links to information

8   provided by senders of the respective mail pieces; and

9 D.   providing to a given user a listing of the associated respective mail pieces

10   and the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user

11   identifier that corresponds to the given user and providing a graphical

8

12   interface connected to notify the given user of the delivery status of the

13   associated respective mail pieces, the interface being configured to

14   provide one or more links to the information provided by a sender of a

15   given mail piece.

1   26.   (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 25 wherein

2   the information provided by the sender includes one or more of transaction history,

3   account balance, and payment option information.

1   27.   (Cancelled).

1   28.   (Currently Amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program

2   instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when

3   executed causing:

4   A.   one or more servers to:

5   i.   receive mail piece delivery status information from respective mail

6   delivery companies and link the mail piece delivery status

7   information with user identifiers~~,~~:

8   ii.   receive messages from the senders of the respective mail pieces

9   and link to the delivery status information an attachment consisting

10   of the messages from the senders of the respective mail pieces,

11   iii.   produce <u>for a user, a personal web page including</u> listings of the

12   delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the

13   respective users that correspond to the user identifiers~~,~~: and

14   iv.   ~~provide~~ <u>provide in said user's personal web page</u> links to the

15   messages in the listings of the delivery status information; and

16   B.   one or more browsers to provide to the respective users associated with the

17   user identifiers access to the listings of the delivery status information and

18   the linked messages.

29.   (Currently Amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when executed causing:

        A.   one or more servers to:

                i.   receive mail piece delivery status information from respective mail delivery companies and link the mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers<ins>,:</ins>

                ii.   receive sender transaction information from respective senders of the mail pieces and link the sender transaction information to the delivery status information<ins>,:</ins>

                iii.   produce <ins>on a user's personal web page</ins> listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the user identifiers<ins>,:</ins> and

                iv.   associate the links to the transaction information with the listings of the delivery status information<ins> on said user's personal web page allowing the user to perform at least one of: sending or receiving a message, receiving or paying a bill, and verifying information based upon a digital signature.</ins>

                <ins>.; and</ins>

        B.   one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information linked to a given user identifier and also to links to the transaction information that associated with the delivery status information.

30.   (Currently Amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when executed causing:

        A.   one or more servers to:

                i.   receive mail piece delivery status information from respective mail delivery companies and link mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers<ins>,:</ins>

8   ii. receive information relating to the contents of the respective mail

9   pieces from the respective senders and link to the delivery status

10   information an attachment consisting of the information relating to

11   the contents of the respective mail pieces,;

12   iii. produce listings of the mail piece delivery status information for

13   mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the

14   user identifiers,; and

15   iv. include in the listings the information relating to the contents of the

16   respective mail pieces; and

17   B. one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information

18   linked to a given user identifier and further to provide access to the

19   associated information relating to the contents of the mail pieces.

1 31. (Cancelled).

1 32. (Withdrawn) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program

2 instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when

3 executed causing:

4   A. one or more servers to

5   link mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers, the

6   delivery status information for a given mail piece including

7   i. a sender identifier,

8   ii. a mail type identifier,

9   iii. a delivery service identifier, and

10   iv. related messages from the sender and the delivery service, and

11   v. produce listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces

12   directed to the respective users that correspond to the user

13   identifiers; and

14   B. one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information

15   linked to a given user identifier

33.   (Cancelled).

34   (Withdrawn) A method of operating a computer system, the method including the
steps of:
      A. associating a given user session with a user identifier;
      B. retaining messages relating to the status of the session at a server and
          including in each message a message sequence number and an attribute that is
          associated with the user identifier; and
      C. using the messages to continue the session from a point at which the session
          last communicated with the server, in response to the user identifier being
          presented at a node that communicates with the server.

35.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34 further including a step of maintaining an
index of the messages, the index being sorted by the attribute that is associated with the
user identifier.

36.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 further including:
      A.   a step of communicating through the session and providing information
          relating to a mailing label;
      B.   in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the
          information relating to the mailing label;
      C.   in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information
          relating to the mailing label; and
      D.   a step of ending the session by printing the mailing label in accordance
          with the retained information.

37.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36 further including:

2   A.   in the step of communicating through the session providing information

3   relating to postage for a mail piece;

4   B.   in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the

5   information relating to the postage;

6   C.   in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information

7   relating to the postage; and

8   D.   in the step of ending the session printing the postage in accordance with the

9   retained information.

1   38.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 further including:

2   A.   a step of communicating through the session and providing information

3   relating to postage for a mail piece;

4   B.   in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the

5   information relating to the postage;

6   C.   in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information

7   relating to the postage; and

8   D.   a step of ending the session by printing the postage in accordance with the

9   retained information.

1   39.   (Withdrawn)   A method of operating a computer network including the steps of:

2   A.   associating a user session with a user identifier that is presented to gain

3   access to information maintained by the network from a first node that

4   communicates with the network;

5   B.   retaining a queue of messages relating to the user session and associating

6   the queue with the user identifier; and

7   C.   in response to the user identifier being later presented at the first node or a

8   second node that communicates over the network, continuing the user

9   session at the first or second node by using the messages to present the

10   session at the point at which the session last communicated with the

11   server.

1   40.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 36 wherein the step of retaining a queue of

2   messages includes indexing the messages by the user identifier.

1   41.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 37 wherein the step of retaining a queue of

2   messages further includes maintaining the queue at each of a plurality of interconnected

3   nodes, a given one of the interconnected nodes at which the user identifier is provided

4   presenting the user session at the point at which the session last communicated with the

5   server.

1   42.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 further including conducting the user

2   session by communicating over the network using a browser or a client executable.

1   43.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 37 wherein the step of presenting the user

2   identifier includes providing a machine-readable code to a scanner that communicates

3   with the node.

1   44.   (Withdrawn)   A method of operating a postal service computer system, the

2   method including the steps of:

3   A.   associating a given user postal mailing label session with a user identifier;

4   B.   retaining messages relating to the status of the session at a server and

5   including in each message a message sequence number and an attribute

6   that is associated with the user identifier, the messages further including

7   mailing label information provided through the session; and

8   C.   using the messages to continue the session from a point at which the

9   session last communicated with the server by presenting the mailing label

10   information provided through the session, in response to the user

11   identifier being presented at a node that communicates with the server.

1   45.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44 further including a step of maintaining an

2   index of the messages, the index being sorted by the attribute that is associated with the

3   user identifier.

1   46.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 45 further including the step of ending the

2   continued session by printing the mailing label in accordance with the retained

3   information.

1   47.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46 further including

2   A.   in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the

3   information relating to postage;

4   B.   in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained

5   information relating to the postage; and

6   C.   in the step of ending the session printing the postage in accordance

7   with the retained information.